

Grades 4-12 Proficiency Level Descriptors: Writing

Language Pattern: Encoding

ELPS 4 (A) apply relationships between sounds and letters of the English language to represent sounds when writing

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	draw pictures and copy words to connect oral language to print	ELAR: initial letter sounds
2 Beginning	copy to write phonetically spelled words	ELAR: initial letter sounds in words
3 Intermediate	match sounds to letters or combinations of letters to spell within increasing accuracy, write phrases that may include invented spelling	ELAR: phoneme-grapheme correspondence in words
4 High Intermediate	encode words while writing and sounding out phonemes or letter clusters	ELAR: phonetic spelling of words, phrases, and simple sentences
5 Advanced	write unfamiliar words applying syllable patterns	ELAR: multisyllabic words with increasing phonetic accuracy

Language Pattern: Phonology

ELPS 4 (B) write text following conventional spelling patterns and rules

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	copy or trace information	ELAR: sight words and CVC words
2 Beginning	connect sounds to letters by relying on phonetic patterns	ELAR: sight words and CVC words
3 Intermediate	connect sounds to letters, including letter clusters and different syllable patterns, with increasing consistency	ELAR: spelling patterns, digraphs, and consonant clusters
4 High Intermediate	spell content-area words with increasing accuracy	ELAR: vowel teams, inflectional endings, and compound words
5 Advanced	spell content-area words accurately	ELAR: multisyllabic words with conventional spelling patterns

Language Pattern: Vocabulary

ELPS 4 (C) write using a combination of high-frequency words and content-area vocabulary

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	illustrate or copy print to show understanding of content-area vocabulary in either primary language or English	Math: mathematical symbols Science: academic terms or cognates Social Studies: academic terms or cognates
2 Beginning	write using a combination of primary language and English high-frequency words to show understanding of content-area vocabulary	Math: mathematical words, phrases, and symbols Science: academic terms or cognates Social Studies: academic terms or cognates
3 Intermediate	write phrases by using high-frequency words, cognates, or content-area vocabulary	Math: mathematical phrases and symbols Science: content-specific academic terms Social Studies: content-specific academic terms
4 High Intermediate	write sentences using content-area vocabulary, including cognates, with increasing accuracy	Math: mathematical phrases, symbols, and vocabulary Science: frequently used academic terms or cognates Social Studies: frequently used academic terms or cognates
5 Advanced	write sentences using content-area vocabulary with accuracy write sentences using content-compatible academic terms such as <i>estimate</i> , <i>value</i> , and <i>speculate</i>	Math: content-specific mathematical vocabulary and symbols Science: content-specific academic terms Social Studies: content-specific academic terms

Language Pattern: Language Structures: Semantics/Syntax

ELPS 4 (D) write content-area texts using a variety of sentence lengths and types and transition words

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	draw pictures, label, list, and copy words	ELAR: copy sentences with appropriate structure
2 Beginning	write using simple phrases or patterns that may convey ideas or information	ELAR: words in a phrase
3 Intermediate	write phrases that convey ideas or information	ELAR: simple phrases using high-frequency words
4 High Intermediate	write sentences using transition words that convey ideas or information with increasing accuracy, write questions using the words who, what, when, where, why, or how with increasing accuracy	ELAR: simple sentences with transition words and question words (who, what, when, where, why, how)
5 Advanced	write sentences using transition words that convey ideas or information with accuracy, write questions using the words who, what, when, where, why, and how accurately	ELAR: a variety of sentence lengths, sentence types, and transition words

Language Pattern: Grammar

ELPS 4 (E) write content-area specific text using conventions such as capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations and grammatical structures such as subject-verb agreement, verb tense, possessive case, and contractions

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	copy words following capitalization and punctuation conventions	ELAR: nouns, adjectives, or verbs
2 Beginning	write words that use uppercase and lowercase letters, including personal information such as first and last names	ELAR: nouns, adjectives, and capitalization
3 Intermediate	write phrases using standard English conventions	ELAR: familiar parts of speech
4 High Intermediate	write sentences using standard English conventions with increasing accuracy	ELAR: common parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, and verb tense
5 Advanced	write a variety of sentence types using standard English conventions with increasing accuracy	ELAR: a variety of parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, verb tense, possessive case, contractions, and abbreviations

Language Pattern: Grammar

ELPS 4 (E) write content-area specific text using conventions such as capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations and grammatical structures such as subject-verb agreement, verb tense, possessive case, and contractions

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production		ELAR: capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure
2 Beginning		ELAR: present tense verbs
3 Intermediate		ELAR: present tense and present progressive verbs with subject-verb agreement
4 High Intermediate		ELAR: past, present, and present progressive verbs with subject-verb agreement
5 Advanced		ELAR: past, present, future, and perfect verb tenses with subject-verb agreement

Language Pattern: Discourse

ELPS 4 (F) write to narrate, describe, explain, respond, or justify with supporting details and evidence using appropriate content, style, register, and conventions for specific purpose and audience

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	copy English print to show understanding of academic content	Math: mathematics content Science: science and engineering content Social Studies: social studies content
2 Beginning	write using a combination of primary language, illustrations, and English text to narrate, describe, explain, or justify	Math: mathematical language in word problems Science: science and engineering language Social Studies: high-frequency social studies language
3 Intermediate	write using frequently modeled content-area language to narrate, describe, explain, or justify understanding of ideas	Math: mathematical thinking and solutions Science: scientific explanations with evidence Social Studies: social studies explanations
4 High Intermediate	write using language common to content-area to narrate, describe, explain, or justify	Math: mathematical reasoning with relevant details Science: evidence-based scientific explanations Social Studies: evidence-based social studies explanations
5 Advanced	write using precise content- area language to narrate, describe, explain, or justify	Math: precise mathematical reasoning Science: precise scientific explanations Social Studies: precise social studies explanations

Language Pattern: Discourse

ELPS 4 (F) write to narrate, describe, explain, respond, or justify with supporting details and evidence using appropriate content, style, register, and conventions for specific purpose and audience

Proficiency Level Descriptors	General	Content Specificity
1 Pre-Production	copy English print to show descriptive language	
2 Beginning	write descriptive words to add details and evidence to written text or pictures	
3 Intermediate	write an idea with specific and relevant details and evidence using descriptive phrases	
4 High Intermediate	write to explain an idea with specific and relevant details and evidence using simple sentences with increasing accuracy	
5 Advanced	write to explain an idea with specific and relevant details and evidence using a variety of sentence types, write using descriptive, literal, or figurative language to compose text	